

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 032778  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05  
NSCE-00 SCA-01 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE: CWSCHMIDT/KNBROWN  
APPROVED BY EUR: AAHARTMAN  
EUR: JAARMITAGE  
PA: HCARTER

-----132234Z 028903 /66

O P 132225Z FEB 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032778

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF NYT CORRESPONDENT HOFMANN

REF: (A)PRAGUE 0400 (NOTAL); (B) VIENNA 1148; (C) VIENNA  
1149

1. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO COMMEND EMBASSY (AND EMBASSY  
VIENNA AS WELL) FOR ACTIONS TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH  
CZECHOSLOVAK DETENTION ON FEBRUARY 12 OF NEW YORK TIMES  
CORRESPONDENT PAUL HOFMANN.

2. WE CONSIDER THAT MEASURES TAKEN BY CZECHOSLOVAK  
AUTHORITIES AGAINST HOFMANN EN ROUTE TO VIENNA, INCLUDING  
REMOVAL FROM TRAIN, DETENTION AND CONFISCATION OF  
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, ARE UNJUSTIFIED AND  
UNACCEPTABLE TREATMENT OF AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT WHO  
WAS MERELY CARRYING OUT HIS LEGITIMATE DUTIES AS  
A CORRESPONDENT.

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3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REGISTER A STRONG PROTEST  
ON FEBRUARY 14 TO HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL AT MFA, MAKING

POINT OUTLINED ABOVE AND PROTESTING REFUSAL OF POLICE  
AUTHORITIES TO ALLOW HOFMANN TO COMMUNICATE WITH EMBASSY,  
CITING ARTICLE 36(2) OF CONSULAR CONVENTION. YOU

SHOULD INSIST THAT WE RECEIVE A FULL AND PROMPT  
EXPLANATION FROM GOC, NOTING THAT WE HAVE NOT YET  
RECEIVED RESPONSE TO SIMILAR DEMARCHE BY EMBASSY FEB 7  
REGARDING GOC TREATMENT OF NBC CORRESPONDENT LESLIE  
COLLITT. YOU SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT HOFMANN'S REQUEST  
THAT HIS PAPERS BE RETURNED PROMPTLY.

4. DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO CALL IN AMB JOHANES ON FEB 14  
AND MAKE PARALLEL PROTEST.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, JOURNALISTS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE032778  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** CWSCHMIDT/KNBROWN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770051-0609  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 PRAGUE 400, 77 VIENNA 1148  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, CASC, CZ, US, CSCE, (HOFMANN)  
**To:** PRAGUE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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